Copyright Office Modernization

Quick Facts – June 2020

Copyright Office modernization is the initiative to reimagine the entire Office by ❶ building a new enterprise IT system designed to be more flexible and easy for users to use, ❷ modernizing supporting IT systems, and ❸ further ensuring that Office practices and processes are efficient and productive.

There are several major efforts in modernization:

Developing the ECS

The ECS will automate Office workflows and serve as the online public interface to the Copyright Office. Currently, the ECS's three main development focus areas are recordation, registration, and system of public record, all of which are ongoing. The Office:

• Continued design of a set of common technical capabilities needed to support recordation, registration, the public record, licensing, and future ECS products. Examples of these capabilities include messaging and correspondence, payment, and financial services responsible for maintaining existing services. The Office expects to begin development work in summer 2020.

• Launched a limited pilot program on April 27 for electronic recordation that will eventually replace the current paper-based process. Pilot participants are a representative group of users, and the Office will add participants in new waves throughout the coming year.

• Finished development on a limited scope registration foundational prototype. In April 2020, planning for the full registration development project began, leveraging information obtained from user experience design and foundational efforts.

• Continued iteration on the ECS design, which comprises user-optimized components.

• Released a request for information (RFI) on creative contracting capabilities for ECS development on May 15. An inter-agency agreement between the Library of Congress and the General Services Administration supports this work.

Comprehensive Access to Public Records

The Copyright Office continues to work on improving access to public records by:

• Facilitating online access to historical public records, both those housed within legacy systems and those not easily accessible to the public online. The Office is in the process of converting the extensive, paper-based pre-1978 entries into a digital format to make them accessible and searchable online.

• Digitizing more than 26,000 record books. The Office partnered with FEDLINK to host a virtual vendor day on May 7 for vendors interested in scanning activities. In addition, development continues on a tool that will perform quality assurance on scanned pages.

• Continuing work on the new Public Records portal. Among the new features are searching capabilities, the ability to view relationships between records, and a web interface consistent with other ECS portals. The Public Records portal will eventually integrate historical public records into a modern interface. The Office anticipates the initial proof of concept in fall 2020.

Data Management Initiative

Data management continues to be an important focus of the Copyright Office's modernization efforts. The Office advanced its efforts by:

• Preparing and demonstrating proof-of-concept dashboards for several Copyright Office business areas, including registration and recordation, as we build an Office-wide business intelligence and analytics capability.

• Continuing to provide guidance for a data migration plan to determine the data flow from various sources to the ECS system.

Outreach

It is important that the Copyright Office keeps the public informed about our progress. In addition to these Quick Facts sheets, the Office has engaged in the following outreach efforts by:

• Continuing a bimonthly webinar series to keep the public up to date. The April 2020 webinar, the eighth in the series, discussed user experience design across modernization.

Please contact us at askcmo@copyright.gov for more information or to get involved.